SCRIPTURAL REASONS TO REJECT JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, & ISLAM

by Brother M.I. Lukkey

Contrary to what you may believe upon reading the title of this essay the author is not at all hostile to religion. In fact, I consider myself a very religious person. Nor am I hostile to the three major branches of Western monotheism; rather, I have found much spiritual value in my studies in the Old and New Testaments and the Qur'an. I have also known too many loving and giving Jews, Christians, and Muslims to believe that the practice of these faiths is necessarily wrong. But my ministry is not intended for such people. Instead, I'm trying to reach those who have already rejected true religion, without realizing it, by their sin of 'scriptural idolatry'. If you believe that your holy book is the literal word of God, and an infallible source of eternal truth, then this is for you. Let me show you exactly what sort of God you are worshipping.

There are numerous relevant passages in the Old and New Testaments and the Qur'an which illustrate the pettiness, cruelty, dishonesty, and thirst for blood of the traditional monotheistic God. That I have limited myself here to one example from each scripture is due only to a desire for brevity, and not from any lack of appropriate examples.

The first instance involves the orders which God had his prophet Samuel give to Saul, the first king of his Chosen People: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, 'I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he set himself against him in the way, when he came up out of Egypt. Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.'" (I Samuel, 15:2-3) In other words, God is demanding that his worshippers not only carry out a complete genocide against the Amalekite people, but they must even exterminate all the Amalekite's livestock. And all this is because, about 250 years earlier, their ancestors had been enemies of the Israelites' ancestors. For millennia theologians and philosophers have pondered the question of why God allows evil to exist. Though there have been a number of different proposals to explain the existence of so-called natural evils like earthquakes, droughts, plagues, etc., the consensus of thinkers regards the evil deeds of human beings as allowed by God in order that we may have free will. But what need do fundamentalist Jews have to absolve God of responsibility for humanity's atrocities when, according to their own Bible, God not only condones but has even actively insisted that just such atrocities are carried out?

The next example should enlighten fundamentalist Christians, especially believers in Biblical Inerrancy. Near the very end of their Bible we find the following revelation, said to have been delivered to St. John sometime before 100 A.D.: "Then the angel said to me, 'These words are true and can be trusted. And the Lord God, who gives his Spirit to the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants what must happen very soon'. 'Listen!' says Jesus. 'I am coming soon!'" (Revelation of John, 22:6-7) If these are truly the words of Jesus to humanity, then obviously Jesus is a liar. There may be a range of lengths of time you could describe as 'soon', but 1900 years is not one of them! I guess it's not surprising that so many evangelists still use the same 'trust me' approach to winning followers; hundreds of 'last generations' later they're still in business. Over that time sophisticated Christians have often found this passage particularly embarrassing. In our own century a few have seized upon the King James translation's rendering, "I come quickly!", and try to interpret it as meaning 'suddenly' instead of 'soon'. However, this is either dishonest or ignorant because 'quickly' was often used in the 1600's in the way we now use 'soon'. All of the translations into modern English use the word "soon".

Finally we come to a quotation from the Holy Qur'an, the revelations of Allah vouchsafed to the prophet Muhammad by the angel Jibra'il: "Who is more wicked than the man who, when reminded of his Lord's revelations, turns away from them and forgets what his hands have done? We have cast veils over their hearts, lest they should understand Our words, and made them hard of hearing. Call them as you may to the right path, they shall never be guided. Your Lord is forgiving and merciful. Had it been His will to scourge them for their sins, He would have hastened their punishment; but He has set for them an appointed hour, which they shall never escape." (Sura 18) Passages like this are the reason that Islamic theologians have tended to emphasize the power of fate over the free operation of human will. Unlike Jehovah and Jesus, Allah is unflinching in accepting the responsibility for the evil his creatures do. If you do not accept Him it is because He made you that way, yet it is you who will be horribly punished as a result, not Him! He's a hit-and-run driver who blames the accident on His car. As if this were not enough of an insult to compassion Allah then goes on to boast of His mercy in letting you continue a while in your divinely decreed obstinacy instead of destroying you instantly. None of this "putting a sick animal out of its misery" nonsense for Allah; He insists that you have the opportunity to express your perversity to its fullest extent!

I hope this brief tract awakens you to the light within. God is not any book or concept, God is a state of awareness. The direct experience of God is precious beyond all valuing, and glorious beyond all description. Don't settle for dogmas, hierarchies, and judgements when you can have discovery, humility, and joy.